



Our Daughters Too...

Cyassandra Frith, CEO

Mission: To inspire, educate, and empower African American adjudicated females.

Vision Statement: We envision a community that supports all girls and nurtured and empowered to achieve greatness.

Rational for Proposed Project: Currently, teen programs in the north Bronx are very limited. Even more limited are teen programs aimed at African American females who have criminal justice involvement. The organization will aim to host workshops geared towards female empowerment for these girls in hopes to foster self-love, help these young ladies avoid any further involvement in the criminal justice system. There is currently construction underway for a community center in the North Bronx. The center comes after decades of community members working to have a place that their children can go to have fun and be safe. The project is said to be a “dream” of Speaker of the Assembly and Assemblyman to the 83rd District Carl Heastie. In working with Speaker Heastie, I know that he has a passion for the community and wants to see programming that will enrich the youth. By having the program take place in this center it will also allow for the girls to participate in programming that will be taking place within the center such as swimming, basketball, and homework help.

Operations:

Proposed Location-1250 East 229th Street Bronx New York. Construction on this location is set to be completed by early 2020. The location is close to public transportation ensuring easy assibilate.

Service Area- Within the center there will multipurpose rooms available for rent for community events. The organization will seek to rent one of these rooms out on an ongoing basis for Saturday groups.

Hours of Operation & Staffing- Groups will run on Saturdays from 10-12 p.m. There will be breakfast served between 10-10:30 a.m. The room will be occupied from 9-5 on Saturdays. There will be a part time Administrative Assistant hired to come in on Saturdays and set up and break down the meeting space. The assistants job will also focus on answering correspondence and networking with other community programs. The Director of the program will coordinate with the assistant to ensure month workshop scheduling.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Goals: To facilitate workshops that allow for girls to develop a sense of purpose.

To show positive African American female leaders as inspiration.

To assist with ensuring that participants can become law abiding successful citizens once leaving the program.

Objectives: The groups will run in 12-week cycles and teens will receive a \$500 stipend at the end of the cycle. The stipend will be given to teens who have an attendance of 60% or greater.

Target Population: Juvenile justice involved females from age 14 to 18 in the North Bronx area. Participation in the program will be fully voluntary. This will help to increase the likelihood that the teens will remain committed to the group and will stay involved with the organization after finishing group cycles.

Project Activities: Each cycle will consist of no more than 10 girls. Every Saturday the girls will be expected to come to group from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Supplies for workshops will be distributed once the groups start. The workshops will be centered

on various topics for example; healthy teen relationships, advocating for yourself in court, women's health, enhancing communication skills, Self-worth and self-respect. Presenters will change weekly and will all be African American females who specialize in focus for the workshop. After each group a 2-ride Metro Card will be provided. Monthly, the group will take a cultural experience trip within New York City. These trips will include attending plays, concerts, museum exhibits and more. Court reports will also be provided for girls who are still going through on-going cases. If an advocate for court is needed the Director will attend, given proper notification. The organization will aim to network with other New York based programs to develop relationship that the girls can benefit from once out of the program.

Why They're Our Daughter's Too: For the past ten years I've working in the Non-profit social service sector within New York City. As a caseworker I've worked for both general and intensive preventive cases as well as working directly with adjudicated female and male youth from age 14 to 18. It was disheartening to me to see that many services were set aside for male teens and there weren't the same services allotted for females. In looking into my own community in the North Bronx the number of programs for youth in general was staggering. Many of the programs were either too expensive for low income families or not programs that adjudicated youth would qualify for. Starting a program like this for the girls in my community will match to the goals of my local Assemblyman as well as community leaders. I am connected professionally and personally to strong women of color who are more than willing to share their time and knowledge with the next generation. The lack of positive pro social activities available matched with the fact that more and more teenage girls are engaging in risky destructive behaviors at an alarming rate proves

that there is a growing need to engage these girls in programming that they are going to be interested in. The main objective will be to get the girls to become a support system for one another and for them to begin to take ownership for shaping their lives. The stipend given at the end of each cycle will be an incentive for the girls however, it will not be the focus for participation.

Budget: The first-year budget will be \$60,000

- **Break Down of Budget:**
 - o \$20,000- Stipend budget for participants
 - o \$2,640 Cost of 2- Ride Metro Card for participants
 - o \$5,200 Food expenses
 - o \$5,200 Rental of Multipurpose Room
 - o \$600 Office Supplies
 - o \$300 P.O. Box Rental
 - o \$200 Food Supplies
 - o Staffing: Administrative Assistant \$5,760 / Director 8,320
 - o Trip Costs: 10,000
 - o Miscellaneous: 1,780

Ongoing community fundraisers will take place to fund additional needs of the program.

